

ALPINE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Alpine City Hall, 20 North Main, Alpine, UT
September 24, 2013

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Mayor Hunt Willoughby

A. Roll Call: The following were present and constituted a quorum:

Mayor Hunt Willoughby

City Council Members present: Troy Stout, Will Jones, Bradley Reneer, Mel Clement

Council Members not present: Kimberly Bryant,

Staff: Rich Nelson, Charmayne Warnock, David Church, Shane Sorensen, Jason Bond, Ron Devey, Jannicke Brewer

Others: Clive Walters, Josh Ludlow, Hunter, Willoughby, Don Waktins, Darren Gooch, Nancy Pope, Kayleb Dynes, Wyatt Gillespie, Michael Innocenti, Kari Rugg Darren Merlove, Louise Innocenti.

B. Prayer: Will Jones

C. Pledge of Allegiance: Hunter Willoughby

Mayor Willoughby recognized the presence of Don Watkins and Darren Gooch who were candidates in the upcoming election.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Alex Tamang said for his Eagle project he would be repainting the curbs in Burgess Park, which were getting faded. Doing so would help with safety. He would be doing it Saturday morning at 8 am. He had already met with Ron Devey about it.

Josh Ludlow said that with the recent flooding, many volunteers had placed sandbags along the street. They were starting to deteriorate and for his Eagle Scout project he would organize a group to pick them up. The City would provide the trucks and other equipment and they would provide the labor. Because of the larger equipment, only scouts over 14 would be participating.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of September 10, 2013

B. Final Bond Release - Bennett Farms, Plat A - \$15,532.81

C. Final Bond Release - Bennett Farms, Plat B - \$39,302.23

D. Final Bond Release - Olde Moyle Mound, Plat A - \$97,822.62

MOTION: Will Jones moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Troy Stout seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS: None

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Flood Mitigation Plan - Including Lambert Park Land Trade for Easement: Mayor Willoughby said he first wanted to praise the staff and volunteers who had done so much during the recent flooding events. He said there were staff who had worked 16 hour days making sure everything happened that needed to happen to protect homes and residents. He then turned the time over to Shane Sorensen to explain the plan to mitigate further damage from flooding.

Shane Sorensen said that with the original EWP (Environmental Watershed Protection) project fund by the NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Services), they put in improvements that had worked well in handling heavy rocks and debris that washed down the mountain from the Quail Fire burn scar. It lessened the impact on the homes below

Lambert Park. He said the debris basins were not designed to hold water since they didn't have that kind of capacity. They had been working with the NRCS again for additional grant money to make more improvements. They were looking at a grant of \$750,000 with a city match of 25%. In order to keep the funding, the City had 60 days to do the projects. He said the most beneficial improvements that could be done were to get the storm runoff into Dry Creek. On the map he showed where the flooding had come from and where it went on the different flood events. The first was on July 6, 2013 which carried a lot of mud down the mountain. The second was on July 16, 2013 and was primarily muddy water. They had hoped the first event had scoured out the channel and any subsequent flooding wouldn't be as bad, but on August 22, 2013 they had a big time flood event, and another on September 7, 2013 which was the worst. It brought down a lot of debris, logs and rocks. He said it was the most far-reaching and he hadn't seen anything like that in the 18 years he'd worked for Alpine City. He said much of the flooding was caused by a plugged culvert north of the LDS Stake Center.

Shane Sorensen said the two projects they had in mind would convey storm water to Dry Creek. On the upper end they would build a 72- inch storm drain pipe from the lower debris basin and run it through private property to Dry Creek. The City would need to acquire an easement through the private property. Staff was working on that. The second project was lower down near the LDS Stake Center. They would run a 36- inch pipe from the High Bench ditch through Lambert Park to Alpine Boulevard and on to Dry Creek. Because it flattened out toward the end, the size of the pipe would need to increase to 48 inches. He said that would be an expensive project because a lot of the pipe would be in asphalt and would run about half a mile. It would also require disturbance of several areas in Lambert Park. He reminded the Council that they were under a 60-day deadline.

There were questions and discussion from the Council clarifying the location of the work, what work would be done, and the cost. Shane Sorensen said the pipe alone would cost \$150 per foot for a 72-inch pipe. They would need about 650 feet.

Don Watkins said his daughter lived on 100 South by Dry Creek. He said he saw the amount of water going down Dry Creek in the last flood event. He asked if Dry Creek would be able to handle the extra water if they channeled even more runoff into Dry Creek.

Shane Sorensen said a 100 year flow could be contained in the bank of Dry Creek. There were a couple of places along the channel that were shown on the new FEMA flood map where it could come out of the channel and they were mindful of that.

Clive Walters said he lived on 300 North. He'd lived there for thirty years and been there during the floods of '83 and '84. It was a lot of water and Dry Creek handled the water. He said he wanted to express appreciation to the City and the people of Alpine for the effort they went to. That much water in that short of time was unheard of. He said Creekside Park was a historic floodplain. There was no curb and gutter on his side of 300 North (north side) and they had some flooding in the basement. He said he liked the idea of getting water into Dry Creek as soon as possible. There were cost issues and he understood they couldn't protect everything.

Shane Sorensen said he knew of no other option but to get the water into Dry Creek as early as possible. He said there was a 36-inch storm drain in Applewood. There was so much pressure it blew the cover off on 600 East. He said they couldn't be at every culvert to make sure it was not plugging. The vegetation in Lambert Park was actually doing its job and holding back the flow. They wanted it to act like an alluvial fan where the debris spread out and slowed down. It would drop the limbs and rocks higher up before it came down to plug the culverts.

Troy Stout asked why part of the project involved re-laying the pipe. Shane Sorensen explained that the pipe was plugged. It was a 60" pipe and they had to clean it out. They tried a flush truck and didn't even get it clear in two days of flushing. There were logs and big rocks and gravel damming the pipe.

Mel Clement asked if it would be prudent to reconfigure some of the building lots in Box Elder that backed up to the storm drain. Shane Sorensen said the roads were where they were. It would be up to the property owner unless the City was able to impose something.

Hunt Willoughby noted they had two sewer manholes up there they needed to protect. Shane Sorensen agreed saying they got sediment in them during the last event.

Bradley Reneer said he understood the bank around the water tank was unstable. Was it in danger and was there something that could be done to mitigate the problem. Shane Sorensen said they had looked at it before and didn't think they could get a piece of equipment in there safely. If it did start to cave in, they would be forced to do something.

Will Jones said there was another plat in Box Elder subdivision that hadn't yet been recorded. He said they should record some kind of restriction on the plat so purchasers of the lots would know about the hazards. David Church said they would make sure everyone knew about the potential dangers. He wasn't aware of a schedule for recording the plat.

Shane Sorensen said Bowen Collins had a recommendation that they come up with an ordinance that imposed some kind of building restrictions in the hazardous areas. The restrictions would include such things as eastside windows, walkout basements, etc. He said it was on the schedule but they had more immediate issues they needed to deal with.

Troy Stout asked how long it took to recover from a burn scar on the mountain. Shane Sorensen said the year after the burn was usually the worst, then there was a two to five year recovery. He said that as rocky as their canyons were, they were probably closer to the five year recovery.

Bradley Reneer asked about the possibility of building a debris basin higher up. Shane Sorensen said a higher basin could potentially push water northward toward the spring and that would not be good. Mayor Willoughby added that debris basins were generally better lower down because things were slowing down and the debris was easier to contain. If it was located higher up, it could blow out the banks because of the energy behind it.

The discussion turned to obtaining the easement across private property to channel storm water into Dry Creek. David Church said cities could not use federal funds to obtain a right-of-way. It could only be used on the actual project. There was a discussion about the possibility of eminent domain. Mr. Church said that even an expedited process wouldn't allow them to make it before the 60 days were up. He added the project on the south would eat up the grant money, and they may not have enough money to do them both.

Ron Devey reviewed some of the work that would need to be done in Lambert Park for the lower project. They would have to relocate the High Bench trail and take out some vegetation. Shane Sorensen said they could begin work on infrastructure in Lambert Park. That didn't require a public hearing but the disposal of property did. Rich Nelson said the public hearings for the property disposition were already set and noticed.

Don Watkins said he didn't think public hearings should be ramrodded. However, the public needed to know about the potential sale of a part of Lambert Park. He said there were some questions the Council need to know the public would be asking. They needed to address why on earth the City was giving up ground in Lambert Park for something the City didn't cause. He wanted to know when the City was going to receive recompense for the damage done by the fire. He said if an innocent child started a fire and his house burned down, the insurance company would still go after the family of the innocent child. He said he'd hadn't heard that the City was trying to get recompense for the damage to their park. He said he wasn't against doing the flood mitigation projects, but citizens had a right to ask what the City had done to make the responsible party pay.

Clive Walters said he'd had minimal damage to his basement. There was a sense of urgency to get something done. He said that once the water developed a path, it would follow the path again and it would go twice as fast the next time. Had it not been for the people in the community, it would have destroyed his home. He said that 30 years ago he took some necessary measures where the ditch flowed to Dry Creek, but with the subsequent homes that were built, that had changed. He said they should be looking for solutions rather than pointing fingers. He said he appreciated the City Council and the City employees and what they had done.

B. Mass Gathering Ordinance: This item was postponed.

C. Hanging Plants on Main Street: This item was postponed.

MOTION: Troy Stout moved to go to closed session to discuss a property transaction. Mel Clement seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Troy Stout, Bradley Reneer, Will Jones and Mel Clement voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council adjourned to closed session at 8:30 PM.

The Council returned to open meeting at 9:40 PM.

D. Open Fire Ban: Mayor Hunt Willoughby said he had met with Fire Chief Brad Freeman about lifting the ban on open fires in Alpine. He said it would be acceptable to lift the ban on barbeques and fire pits at personal residences but recommended the ban remain in place for the wildland area. He said the recent rains had not put moisture into the plants that were there and it was still very dry.

MOTION: Bradley Reneer moved to lift the ban on personal fires in the city of Alpine but there would still be a ban on fires in the wildlands. Troy Stout seconded. Ayes: 4. Nays: 0. Motion passed.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

Shane Sorensen said he would like to thank the residents for their patience and help with everything that had gone on. People's attitudes were unbelievable. He'd met with people who were in tears because of the work that had been done to clean up their homes and yards. They were hauling away mud and debris. Patterson was letting them dump the mud on his property which saved them the time and expense of having to haul it out of town. Bruce Argyle and his group had been cleaning up the trails in Lambert Park. Bryan Burr had donated \$75,000 worth of work.

VII. COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Troy Stout asked if David Josie was still running the soccer fields and was told he was. He asked if he could be included in the meetings with him. Will Jones said he would also like to be involved in the meetings. The agreement was that if 50% of the members on the team were from Alpine, they could use the Alpine fields. But they were finding that parents were driving their kids to Saratoga Springs for games and teams from outside of Alpine were using the fields.

Will Jones thanked Mayor Willoughby for following up with the County on the cost of the fire protection. He asked David Church if they had heard anything from the Recovery Lodge. David Church said they had received an email back with the other side's edits. He said he would bring it back when it was substantive.

Bradley Reneer

- He noted that they had not yet had a City Council picture done. The mayor said they were working on it.
- He said he appreciated the police work in Burgess Park. They'd been ticketing people who parked along the red curbs, and the illegal parking had disappeared.
- He said he would like to discuss the Alpine Days budget at some point.
- He said he had voted to eliminate the staff Christmas Party and in exchange had talked about having a summer potluck for staff. He said they were running out of good weather and they needed to have the potluck. Shane Sorensen said he didn't feel like they needed it. The nicest thing they could do for staff was give them a day off. They had been working nonstop with all the flooding.

Mayor Willoughby

- He reported that he and Brad Freeman and Rich Nelson had met with the County Commission and were successful in getting them to accept the bill for providing fire service to the Alpine Cove and American Fork Canyon areas. They did not, however, agree to pay for EMS service. He said he would write a letter to the HOA of Alpine Cove and let them know the County was picking up the cost of fire protection but suggest they pick up the remaining \$15,000 for EMS service. He said there were already some in the Cove who did that because they appreciated the service.
- He said they were finally able to get Comcast service in the southeast part of Alpine. They'd been trying to persuade Comcast to provide service to that area for two years. Comcast said they would put it in their budget.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The executive session was held earlier in the meeting following the discussion on the Flood Mitigation Plan and the possible exchange of land in Lambert Park for a storm easement through private property.

MOTION: Will Jones moved to adjourn. Troy Stout seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.